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1149 Bethel Street, Suite 801 • Honolulu, HI 96813

**THE SENATE  
THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Friday, March 28, 2008  
9:30 AM Room 211, State Capitol

**Comments in SUPPORT of HB2366, SD1  
By  
Stephen A. Kula, Ph.D., NHA  
Executive Director, Organ Donor Center of Hawaii**

My name is Dr. Steve Kula; I am the Executive Director of the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii, (ODCH). I submit my comments in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **HB2366, SD1**. We believe that this Bill would save lives and provide needed assistance to the citizens of our State who wish to be donors and help someone in need of an organ transplant. Currently in the State of Hawaii more people are added to the organ transplant waitlist than are able to be transplanted off of it. In the past few years we have been declining in the number of donors and thus the number of organs and transplantations. Consequently more patients are dying while on the waitlist or being removed because they are too sick to be transplanted.

We believe that our community should be a society where people see organ donation as a social responsibility. In such a society, donating organs would be accepted as a normal part of dying, and in cases where a person died without recording a specific choice about donating his or her organs, the surviving family members would be comfortable giving permission. To achieve this there must be some mechanism for everyone to access information and be given the opportunity to give an informed consent to donate their organs so that others might live.

Organ donor designation on Hawaii driver's licenses has shown to have significant impact in predisposing potential donor families to consent for donation, where 94% of families consented to donation when their loved one had indicated so on his or her Hawaii driver's license as compared to an overall consent rate of less than 50%. If this bill is enacted we would be able to offer everyone, not just those who are able to drive, the ability to choose to be or not to be an organ donor.

We asked that the Health Committee accept the following amendment to reflect the arrangement we had come to with the Department of Health with regards to the funding.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$     or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 as a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to the Hawaii Organ Procurement Organization for the establishment of a statewide organ donor registry, provided that no funds shall be released pursuant to this Act if funds are received from federal funds, other private funds, or a combination thereof.

But in review of the Bill with SD1 we noticed that it was amended quite differently and now is a change in statute by amending Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes. We do not understand the reasons for this change because it means additional work for all parties involved.

With regard to the appropriated amount it does not need to be very much if anything at all. The Department of Health currently has a grant application into the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, (HRSA) for the sum of \$150,000.00 but will not know the outcome of that application until sometime prior to the start date of August 1, 2008. ODCH is also working on private funding and in-kind services to help supplement funds for public education and development. Other affected agencies, i.e. National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii, have also agreed to do their specific parts of the registry project with in-kind services as well. Please allow us to establish a statewide organ donor registry by passing this important piece of legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.



# CONGRESS OF VISAYAN ORGANIZATIONS

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2366 SD 1

Relating to Organ Donor Registry.  
Establishes a statewide organ donor registry.

March 28, 2008

9:30 am

Hawai'i State Capitol Conference Room 211

To:

Honorable Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Honorable Sen. Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice-Chair

Honorable Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

From: Margarita Hopkins, President

Serafin Colmenares, Jr., Ph.D., Executive Vice President

Congress of Visayan Organizations

My name is Margarita Hopkins, President of the Congress of Visayan Organizations, a statewide umbrella organization representing 22 unit organizations of Visayan ancestry.

On behalf of the Congress of Visayan Organizations, we submit strong support of this bill. We believe that an organ donor registry is necessary to building a strong and effective infrastructure to facilitate health planning, evaluation, and finding a match for organ donation.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Please consider voting yes to this bill.

Sincerely,

For the President:

Serafin Colmenares Jr.

Executive Vice President

# Filipino American Citizens League

Jake Manegdeg, President  
P. O. Box 270126 \* Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2366 SD 1

March 28, 2008  
9:30 am  
Hawai'i State Capitol Conference  
Room 211

To:  
Honorable Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Honorable Sen. Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice-Chair  
Honorable Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

From: Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League  
What: Relating to Organ Donor Registry. Establishes a statewide organ donor registry.

My name is Jake Manegdeg. As president of the Filipino American Citizens League, I am proud to submit our full support of HB 2366 SD 1. The Filipino American Citizens League was formed over ten years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

Our members are grateful for this opportunity to advocate for a statewide organ donor registry. Public health measures to prevent deaths through education, research, and training have made great strides in informing stakeholders at the grassroots level, as well as in the public and private sectors, about the lifesaving benefits of health promotion and life style changes. Despite this, the need for organ donation continues to increase globally, nationally, as well as in Hawaii. HB 2366 will aid in generating much needed coordination in planning and program development tools in order to better serve and provide accountability to the patients, general public, health care providers, and health care-related systems.

Thank you for weighing the pros and cons of establishing a statewide organ donor registry.

We urge you to please pass HB 2366 SD 1.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg  
President  
Filipino American Citizens League



**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2366 SD 1**  
**Senate Ways and Means Committee**

March 28, 2008, 9:30 am  
Conference Room 211

Relating to Organ Donor Registry. Establishes a statewide organ donor registry.

To:

Hon. Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Chair; Hon. Sen. Shan Tsutsui, Vice-Chair; Hon. Members of the House Ways and Means Committee

From:

Amy Agbayani, Ph.D.

Vice Chair, National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) Region XII

My name is Amy Agbayani. I serve as Assistant Vice Chair of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region XII, which represents the interests of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands. NaFFAA Region XII is an affiliate of the National NaFFAA. Washington policy-makers, private industry and national advocacy groups recognize NaFFAA as the Voice of Filipinos and Filipino Americans throughout the United States. We are a non-partisan, non-profit national affiliation of more than five hundred Filipino-American institutions and umbrella organizations that span twelve regions throughout the continental United States and U.S. Pacific territories.

Thank you for the opportunity to convey the high regard and confidence of the Filipino community in supporting HB 2366 SD1, to establish a statewide organ donor registry. As longtime advocates to address the disparities that persist for organ donors and recipients alike, Filipinos in Hawai'i have played a vital role in community outreach and education, thereby significantly increasing the numbers of registered potential and actual organ donors from our community. In just a few years, under the competent leadership of Mr. Tony Sagayadoro and countless community collaborations, Filipinos have become a national educational and behavior change model for other states to replicate for organ donor registration. Consequently, the need to create and maintain a statewide organ donor registry has become the next imperative step to this lifesaving health initiative.

Thank you for considering the years of capacity building contributed in kind by Hawai'i's phenomenal volunteers, in order to get to this point of needing an organ donor registry. We thank you for doing your part to enact HB 2366 SD1, which will ensure continued progress to save lives and commitment to give back for the well being of all of Hawai'i's people.

Sincerely,

Amy Agbayani, Ph.D., Assistant Vice Chair, NaFFAA Region XII

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c/o 728 Nunu Street · Kailua · Hawai'i 96734 · Phone/Fax: (808) 254-4522 · E-Mail: [hnaffaa2006@yahoo.com](mailto:hnaffaa2006@yahoo.com)

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# Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.

... a non-profit organization with a mission to address the international nursing shortage by providing guidance and assistance for nursing colleagues to obtain their professional license in nursing.

P.O. Box 2034 Aiea, HI 96701  
E-mail: [namihonolulu@yahoo.com](mailto:namihonolulu@yahoo.com)

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## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2366 SD 1

March 28, 2008

9:30 am

Hawai'i State Capitol Conference Room 211

To:

Honorable Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Honorable Sen. Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice-Chair

Honorable Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

From:

Beatrice Ramos-Razon, RN, FACDONA

President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc.

My name is Bea Ramos Razon, president and founder of Nursing Advocates and Mentors Inc. With more than 75 members and supporters, NAMI was established to address the nursing global shortage and its impact in Hawai'i, by providing training and mentoring to foreign medical nurses, in order to pass the U.S. nursing board exams.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 2366 SD1, which establishes a statewide organ donor registry. This bill would:

- encourage and register more people to serve as an organ donor
- help to increase the supply of the critically needed organs for transplant
- save the lives of critically ill patients who need organ transplant
- address the critical shortage of organs for transplantation, as similar legislation has been enacted or is pending in other states.

Your deliberation to support passage of HB 2366 SD1 is most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Ramos-  
Razon, RN,  
FACDONA  
President, Nursing  
Advocates and Men-  
tors, Inc.



Tessie Oculito, RN, President

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c/o Philippine Nurses Association – Hawaii  
92-1269 Umana Street  
Kapolei, HI 96707

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2366 SD 1 Senate Ways and Means Committee

March 28, 2008

9:30 am

Hawai'i State Capitol Conference Room 211

Relating to Organ Donor Registry  
Establishes a statewide organ donor registry

To:

Honorable Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Honorable Sen. Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice-Chair

Honorable Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

From:

Tessie Oculito, RN, President, Philippine Nurses Association-Hawaii

My name is Tessie Oculito. I am speaking as president of the Philippine Nurses Association-Hawaii, which has a membership of over 70 registered nurses. As a national affiliate of the Philippine Nurses Association of America, our shared mission is to uphold and foster the positive image and welfare of our constituent members; to promote professional excellence and contribute to significant outcomes to healthcare and society.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 2366 SD1, which establishes a statewide organ donor registry. For years, our members have diligently, and in good faith, volunteered to provide organ donor education to the Filipino community. Filipinos have gone from having among the nation's lowest potential organ donor registration rates to among the highest. As a result, we have significantly increased actual donor rates. Now is the time to support this measure that will create a statewide organ donor registry for greater efficiency in health care delivery and community education to meet the critical shortage and delicate challenge of respectfully matching potential donors with patients, often under the most tragic and shocking circumstances for the donor families and loved ones.

Thank you for contemplating the benefits of creating a statewide organ donor registry. Your support to vote yes on HB 2366 SD1 can make a difference to turn adversity into a gift of life.

Sincerely,

Tessie Oculito, RN  
President, Philippine Nurses Association – Hawaii





# UNITED FILIPINO COUNCIL OF HAWAII

P.O. BOX 498, Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0498

## Testimony in Support of HB 2366 SD 1

March 28, 2008

9:30 am

Hawai'i State Capitol Conference Room 211

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Senate Ways and Means Committee

Honorable Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Honorable Sen. Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice-Chair

Honorable Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

Relating to Organ Donor Registry

Establishes a statewide organ donor registry

Dear Chair Josh Green, Vice-Chair John Mizuno, and Members of the House Health Committee,

I am Bryan Andaya, president of the United Filipino Council of Hawaii (the Council). Founded in 1959 to help Filipinos in Hawaii play a larger role in the State of Hawaii, the mission of the Council is to promote a sense of unity, friendship, camaraderie and mutual assistance among Filipinos in Hawaii while promoting and perpetuating the Filipino heritage and culture. Today, the Council consists of six Island Councils with jurisdiction over 100+ Filipino organizations and a combined membership of about 10,000 from every major island in the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 2366, which establishes a statewide organ donor registry. A registry will benefit Hawai'i's people by addressing the critical shortage of organs for transplantation. This measure would facilitate improvements in health planning, education, and evaluation of support needed not only for patients, but also for health care providers and institutions.

We appreciate your consideration of the benefits of this life saving legislation to justify passage of HB 2366.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan P. Andaya

UFCH President

\*2006-07

\*\*2007-08

# Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

A HAWAII RIGHTS ADVOCACY GROUP • FOUNDED IN 1990

c/o 728 Nunu St. • Kailua, HI 96734 • <http://www.philippinesonline.org/thecoalition/>

## **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2366 SD 1**

March 28, 2008

9:30 am

Hawai'i State Capitol Conference Room 211

Re: Organ Donor Registry. Establishes a statewide organ donor registry.

To:

Honorable Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Honorable Sen. Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice-Chair

Honorable Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

From:

Charlene Cuaresma, MPH

President, Filipino Coalition For Solidarity

My name is Charlene Cuaresma. As president of the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, I am submitting testimony in strong support of this bill. Since its inception in 1990, the Coalition has represented more than 50 Filipino community leaders whose aim is to work for social justice issues to empower Filipinos to make socially responsible contributions to Hawai'i and our global neighbors through education, advocacy, and social action.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 2366 SD 1, which establishes a statewide organ donor registry. This bill is needed to build the capacity to collect, analyze, track, and evaluate services, policies, and progress in the lifesaving business and mission of providing the gift of life to hundreds of Hawai'i residents who are in need of organ transplants, as well as those who are potential organ donors. A statewide organ donor registry also enables good stewardship of limited resources to meet fiduciary responsibilities to the public.

Thank you for your hard work in determining the merits and benefits of HB 2366 SD 1. Your help in its passage can save many lives who will contribute to giving back to our community in many untold, but invaluable ways.

Respectfully,

Charlene Cuaresma

President, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

**TO:** Senate Committee on Health  
Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Honorable Shan Tsutsui, Vice-Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

**FROM:** Agnes Reyes, RN

**RE: Testimony in Full Support of HB 2366, SD1**  
RELATING TO ORGAN DONOR REGISTRY  
Establishes a statewide organ donor registry

My name is Agnes Reyes, a registered nurse, a case manager, a volunteer member of the MOTTEP Advisory Board, and a friend or a healthcare professional who know individuals who might be in need of tissue and organ donation in the future.

**I fully support the HB 2366, SD1 which will establish a Statewide Organ Donor Registry.**

This bill will not only promote organ donation but also facilitate and streamline organ donation registration and education, centralization, accuracy and availability of information, timely accessibility of data for reporting and quality improvement thus "Promoting Saving Lives." Life is precious and there is no better gift to others than the "Gift of Life".

Please allow full consideration of this bill as an instrument of saving lives.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Agnes Reyes



# AIM HI

## AIM Healthcare Institute

Before  
Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Honorable Shan Tsutsui, Vice-Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Public Hearing – 9:30AM Friday, March 28, 2008 - Conference Room 211

**RE: Testimony in strong support of HB 2366, SD1 – Relating to Organ Donor Registry**  
Establishes a statewide organ donor registry

**The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair; Honorable Shan Tsutsui, Vice-Chair and members of the committee:**

My name is Nancy Atmospera-Walch and an avid supporter of The Organ Donor Center of Hawaii. In fact, I believe in their mission so much, I offered to Co-Chair their 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Gala Dinner and Dance Fundraising Event which was held on December 1, 2007.

As a nurse who worked initially in the Neuro Trauma Orthopedic Unit at The Queen's Medical Center, I saw both sides of the patient. One extreme, is the young patient who was in an accident but could not be saved due to multiple injuries but would have been an excellent DONOR, if before the accident he/she would have been aware of Organ Donor program and decided to be an Organ Donor. The other extreme, is the patient who has been waiting for organ to match his/her needs. If the Organ Donor program is more prominent and the community is aware of it through education, I am quite sure that we would have more people in the state of Hawaii agreeing to be a Donor. Personally, I know three wonderful people who have been the recipient of organs and without those organs these friends would not be here today. So, how could we improve or increase the numbers of donors? There are several ways but having a statewide organ donor registry would certainly be a great strategy.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 2366, SD1 which establishes a statewide organ donor registry

I fully support the passage of HB 2366, SD1 for the following reasons:

- To encourage and register more people to serve as an organ donor
- To help increase the supply of the critically needed organs for transplant
- To save the lives of critically ill patients who needs organ transplant
- Most states have already passed similar legislation to address the critical shortage of organs for transplantation and other states have pending legislation which had shown positive changes

**We urge that you give HB 2366, SD1 your favorable consideration.**

Thank you.

Warmest Aloha,

*Nancy Atmospera-Walch*

Nancy Atmospera-Walch, RN, MPH, NHA, CHES, CCHN



1149 Bethel Street, Suite 801 • Honolulu, HI 96813

March 27, 2008

Before  
**Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair**  
**Honorable Shan Tsutsui, Vice-Chair**  
**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

Public Hearing – 9:30AM Friday – March 28, 2008 - Conference Room 211

**RE: Testimony in strong support of HB 2366, SD1 – Relating to Organ Donor Registry**  
Establishes a statewide organ donor registry

**The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair**  
**Honorable Shan Tsutsui, Vice-Chair**  
**and members of the committee:**

**I applaud the introduction of HB 2366, SD1 – Relating to Organ Donor Registry and I am submitting testimony in full support of the passage of this measure.**

My name is Tony L. Sagayadoro, Program Coordinator of the Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program (MOTTEP), a minority outreach program of the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii. MOTTEP is also a founding member of the Hawaii Coalition on Organ Donation.

Since the passage of Act 88 in year 1999, which provided the Clinical Staff of Organ Donor Center of Hawaii 24 hour access to Hawaii Driver's License Information to know whether Organ Donor designation was indicated on the driver's license, more lives have been saved. Organ Donor designation on Hawaii Driver's license have shown significant impact on families knowing their loved one's wishes, 94% of families approached consented to donation knowing that their loved had indicated their wishes to be an organ donor on their driver's license compared to an overall consent rate of less than 50%.

The sad part the number of patients waiting for organ transplant continue to increase at a very alarming rate, there are more patients waiting and the number continue to increase everyday. Any of these patients can be anyone of us, our neighbor, families, friends or anyone that we know.

On the positive note through the collaboration and partnership of different agencies involved in the promotion of organ and tissue donation and the formation of the Hawaii Coalition on Donation (HCOD) has produced encouraging results. During the past seven years, the number of drivers who signed up as organ donor had increased. And having a Statewide Organ Donor Registry will encourage not only those who have driver's license but to every individual to have the opportunity to have their wishes documented by signing up through the donor registry.



On behalf of the Advisory Board Member of MOTTEP, we fully support the passage of HB 2366, SD1 to encourage more people to serve as organ donors by registering to the Statewide Organ Donor Registry to help increase available organs and tissue for transplantation to save the lives of patients in need organ transplants.

Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program (MOTTEP) educational efforts are now making a difference. The increase in Filipino donors in the past so many years is a validation that public education works and more lives are saved due to this effort. More Filipino families now have been choosing to donate than those who declined. This is very significant that Filipinos is now one of the population groups having a "positive" consent rate compared to the early stage of the program.

We fully believe in HB 2366, SD1 will produce positive results like other states that had enacted the establishment of a Statewide Organ Donor Registry.

**We therefore urge that you give HB 2366, SD1 your favorable consideration.**

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Tony L. Sagayadoro  
Program Coordinator  
(808) 368-8753  
(808) 585-3419

***"Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle,  
and the life of the candle will not be shortened.  
Happiness never decreases by being shared."***

Buddha, Indian philosopher & religious leader

March 27, 2008

**Before  
Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Honorable Shan Tsutsui, Vice-Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

Public Hearing – 9:30AM Friday, March 28, 2008 - Conference Room 211

**RE: Testimony in strong support of HB 2366, SD1– Relating to Organ Donor Registry** Establishes a statewide organ donor registry

**The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Honorable Shan Tsutsui, Vice-Chair  
and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:**

My name is Clementina Ceria-Ulep, a faculty at the University of Hawaii School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, Department of Nursing. As a staff nurse in the past and present call-in nursing supervisor at one of our local hospitals, I have seen the positive impact of organ transplantation. I have taken care of patients with kidney transplants who receive another chance and the happiness, gratitude and deep appreciation this brings to them and their family for the precious gift of life. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 2366, SD1 which establishes a statewide organ donor registry

**I fully support the passage of HB 2366, SD1 for the following reasons:**

- encourage and register more people to serve as an organ donor
- helps increase the supply of the critically needed organs for transplant
- saves the lives of critically ill patients who needs organ transplant
- Most states have already passed similar legislation to address the critical shortage of organs for transplantation and other states have pending legislation.

**We urge that you give HB 2366, SD1 your favorable consideration.**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Clementina D. Ceria-Ulep*

**Lynne V. Gutierrez**  
1523 Lehia Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

THE SENATE  
The Twenty-Fourth Legislature  
Regular Session 2008  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

9:30A.M. - Friday, March 28, 2008  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

RE: Testimony in support of HB 2366– Relating to Organ Donor Registry

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Honorable Shan Tsutsui, Vice-Chair  
and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 2366, SD1.  
My name is Lynne V. Gutierrez, I am the immediate past president of Oahu  
Filipino Community Council; a special education teacher and a current member of  
the Bayanihan/Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Advisory Board.

I am appealing for your full support of HB 2366, SD1 for the following reasons:

- To encourage and register more people to serve as an organ donor
- To help increase the supply of the critically needed organs for transplant
- To save the lives of critically ill patients who needs organ transplant

Thousand of these people can be helped if more of us are to become organ donor,  
each of us has the power to do this. Patients are dying in great numbers while  
waiting. These people could be anybody, it could be anyone of us, our family,  
friends, neighbors or anyone you know.

I therefore urge that you pass HB 2366, SD1.

Lynne V. Gutierrez